

Dec. 58

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Your letter and paper arrived safely with the other Christmas mail. All of us here had a very happy holiday and trust that you and your family did as well.

Inasmuch as our regular business slows perceptibly during the Christmas season, we have been able to give immediate attention to your paper. The first step in processing your paper began, of course, with me. I read it very carefully, scrutinizing it for classified information. I am certain that there is no security information as such contained therein. After reading the paper and then turning back to the title page, however, my reaction was that no one could write a satisfactory paper on this subject without using a great deal of classified information. Even with such information available, it would be extremely difficult to write such a paper on China and the USSR that would be well received by an audience of mining and mineral experts. My view, therefore, is that the paper in its present form, because classified information is not available for you to use, is not suitable for presentation to the audience you have in mind.

To test my reaction, I gave only the paper -- I withheld your accompanying letter and the bibliography -- to [redacted] who didn't know who wrote it, and asked him to give me his comments. He reviewed it very carefully, and although his criticisms were a bit harsh here and there, on the whole I believe they serve to guide both of us. In short, [redacted] he agrees that you characteristically have attempted the impossible--neither you nor anyone else could do justice to this subject without using a huge amount of classified information.

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Although you have done about all that could be expected with the slight amount of information available to you, my recommendation is that you do not present this paper at the Denver meetings. It seems

to me that a paper on some subject more closely related to your specialities in mining and milling machinery, equipment, and processes would be more feasible for you. I believe that you can contribute something worthwhile in this field and you would not have to get involved with security information of any kind. Moreover, a paper in this field probably would be of far greater interest to prospective clients.

In closing, let me again urge you to concentrate on subjects in your specialities, excluding those of the Sino-Soviet Bloc. If you think that any of us can be helpful to you by reviewing another paper you have prepared, or in any other way, please ask us. You may be assured that you will receive both an honest and friendly appraisal.

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All of your friends here join me in sending best wishes to you and your family for a Happy New Year.

Very truly yours,

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